

Callout summary of 2022

The team responded to 41 callouts in 2022, a 20% increase on 2021 but still less than our peak of 49 callouts during the pandemic in 2020.

2022 **41** CALL OUTS

the reason

27	locate vulnerable / despondents
5	searching for lost and/or injured
7	ambulance & air ambulance assist
1	Cave rescue / fire service assist (dog)
1	extreme weather event response

where

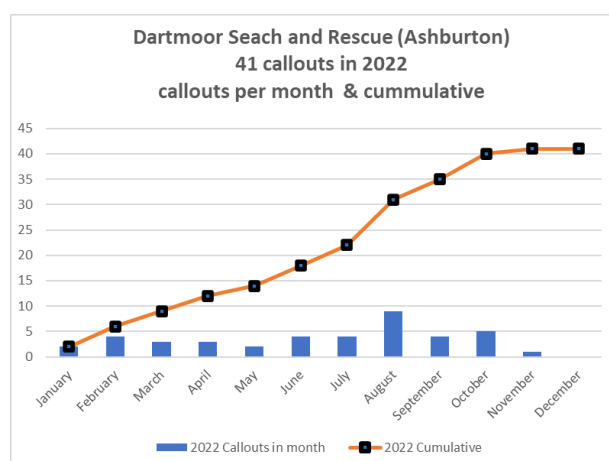
rural devon	17
dartmoor	17
urban setting	7

2,667
volunteer hours

Looking at the callouts reasons:

- 27 assisting Devon and Cornwall (DC) Police locating vulnerable or despondent individuals (up 7 on previous year).
- 5 looking for those who were lost or injured down 3).
- 7 assisting the Ambulance (including Devon Air Ambulance) Services.
- 1 responding to an extreme weather event (same as previous year)
- 1 supporting Devon Cave Rescue and Devon Fire and Rescue Services in extracting a trapped dog.

On a month-by-month basis:



- Our busiest month was August with 10 callouts.
- December was the quietest with no callouts.
- We were contacted 49 times by Devon and Cornwall Police during the year which resulted in 41 callouts.
- The team expended 2,667 volunteer hours on callouts during the year.

Looking back on the 2022 callouts

The lifting of covid restrictions meant that it was easier for the team to be operational throughout 2022. We also managed to undertake all the planned fundraising activities which are critical to us if we are to continue to provide our service to the community.

The team assisted all three emergency services, plus the NHS, HM Coastguard and our sister teams across Devon & Cornwall. Our specialist water and rope teams also assisted in a number of difficult incidents.

Our first callout of 2022 was on 12th January. A lady had gone for a walk in the Avon Dam area of South Dartmoor and became lost as darkness fell. She was quickly located and returned cold but unharmed to her car.

We had more calls in 2022 to support the south west ambulance service than in previous years. They included everything from protecting someone from the elements after a bad fall on a remote track, to a complex stretcher extraction of an individual from the Becky Falls tourist attraction.

In 2022 almost two thirds of our callouts involved searches for missing or despondent individuals. Some of these searches lasted several days and involved multi-agency responses.

One evening in the autumn we received a callout to help recover a dog trapped on a ledge at Haytor Rocks. It turned out that the dog was actually trapped in a hole under a granite spoil heap behind Haytor Rocks. The specialists for this type of work are the Devon Cave Rescue Organisation and the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service who we then called. Our job became escorting the various agencies to and from the site safely in the darkness and looking after the dog's owners. After several hours the dog was freed and found to be unharmed.

In June, Platinum Jubilee medals, to mark the 70th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, were awarded to team members with at least 5 years of service. At this ceremony, six team members received their third jubilee medal which represents a minimum of 25 years of voluntary service from each individual.

We continue to rely on our incredible volunteers to drop everything, at any time of the day or night, in all weathers to search for lost, injured or vulnerable individuals.